



Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

October 2024

4-day school weeks gain momentum

By one estimate, more than 60% of districts in Colorado have a four-day schedule to help address teacher shortages and budget issues. While the policy has proven popular and helped some districts retain staff, studies reveal mixed effects on student achievement. For more, go to <https://osba.link/1024SU1>.

E-rate expands WiFi hotspot funding

Schools and libraries can apply for E-Rate discounts on WiFi hotspots to support off-campus use, writes **Brian Stephens**, senior compliance analyst at Funds For Learning. However, strict eligibility and usage requirements must be met to qualify for the discounts. For more, please visit <https://osba.link/1024SU2>.

Leaders claim team-based teaching model is gaining traction

A team-based teaching model, in which teachers, paraprofessionals and instructional coaches collaborate, can help address challenges like teacher burnout and student disengagement. Leaders of this model say the approach can improve both teacher retention and student outcomes. For more, visit <https://osba.link/1024SU3>.

Bay Village students repair computers for their school

A group of students at **Bay Village** City's Bay Middle School, known as Chromie Homies, are making repairs to the Chromebooks of their peers while gaining real-world technical skills. The program aims to build students' tech skills and confidence while also saving the school district money by avoiding other repair services. For more, visit <https://osba.link/1024SU4>.

Georgia elementary students turn food waste into compost

Students in Georgia's Lovin Elementary School are learning about sustainability through a composting program, in which they collect food waste in the cafeteria and turn the scraps into compost for the school garden. The program includes students using their math skills by weighing the discarded food while combating food insecurity by offering usable food on a share table. For more, visit <https://osba.link/1024SU5>.

Chronic absenteeism affects vulnerable students

Michigan students, particularly those with disabilities and from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, are facing high rates of chronic absenteeism. Experts emphasize that long-standing barriers like transportation and mental health issues have worsened since the pandemic and are calling for systemic solutions to address attendance challenges. For more, visit <https://osba.link/1024SU8>.

Student achievement in-depth

Each month, **Success** brings you a research brief or in-depth article to discuss with board members and administrators.

Opportunities, not poverty alone, predict later-life success for children

A study tracking 814 children for more than 26 years reveals that access to multiple opportunities, such as after-school activities and high-quality child care, is more predictive of future success than poverty alone. Research published by the American Educational Research Association shows that students from low-income households who have even a few opportunities have significantly better educational and economic outcomes.

The study examined access to a spectrum of opportunities in childhood and adolescence, including factors such as the instructional quality of classrooms, participation in after-school activities like sports, music lessons, and clubs, opportunities at home, childcare, and in the neighborhood from birth through high school.

Researchers aimed to determine the extent to which opportunity was linked with educational attainment and earnings in early adulthood and whether opportunity was most strongly associated with these adult outcomes for children from low-income households.

Results indicated that while most high-income children experience six or more “opportunities” between birth and high school, nearly two-thirds of children from low-income households have zero or only one opportunity.

The authors noted that this opportunity gap appeared to be a more powerful predictor of future educational attainment and earnings than childhood poverty alone. Children from low-income households who benefited from even a few of these opportunities had better outcomes as young adults. When children from low-income households moved from zero to four opportunities, for example, their odds of graduating from a four-year college jumped from 10 to 50%, and their annual salaries by age 26 increased by around \$10,000.

Between birth and high school, “even one additional opportunity was very meaningful,” said co-author of the report, **Eric Dearing**, a professor at Boston College and executive director of the Mary E. Walsh Center for Thriving Children.

For more about this research and a link to the American Educational Research Association study, please visit <https://osba.link/1024SU7>.

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